



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and to carrying a firearm in relation to a federal drug trafficking crime.

Gerald Woods, 35, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen this morning to the charges contained in a July 19, 2005, federal indictment.

Law enforcement officers conducted surveillance of **Woods** from July 13, 2003, to July 13, 2004, Graves said. On July 13, 2004, detectives observed **Woods** conduct an apparent narcotics transaction with another individual. After the narcotics transaction was observed, **Woods'** vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation. When **Woods** was asked to exit the vehicle during the traffic stop, Graves said, he instead fled the scene in his vehicle. While fleeing, **Woods** was involved in a traffic accident resulting in injuries to himself and another person driving a separate vehicle. In **Woods'** vehicle, officers recovered approximately eight grams of crack cocaine and an Interarms semi-automatic 9 mm handgun.

By pleading guilty today, **Woods** admitted that he purchased powder cocaine, normally in kilogram quantities for about \$20,000 per kilogram, and that he manufactured crack cocaine, which he resold. **Woods** also admitted that the firearm found in the vehicle belonged to him; he kept it in the console for protection.

Woods agreed to forfeit to the government \$2,079 that was seized at the time of his arrest, which represents the proceeds from the conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine.

Under federal statutes, **Woods** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to

\$1,250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jane Pansing Brown and W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html